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**Important Message from the President.**

MODIFICATION OF THE TEST OATH RECOMMENDED, ETC., ETC.

The following important document has been in our office for two days awaiting insertion:

On Friday last, to the House of Representatives, at Washington, the President transmitted communications from the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster-General, addressed to him by those officers, suggesting a modification of the oath of office presented by the act of Congress approved July 2, 1862. He fully concurs in their recommendations, and as the subject pertains to the efficient administration of the revenue and postal laws in the Southern States, he earnestly commends it to the early consideration of Congress.

The letter of the Secretary of the Treasury contains the names of collectors of internal revenue, assessors, assistant assessors, collectors, and surveyors of customs, &c., appointed since the overthrow of the rebellion, in the Southern States, who have not been able to take literally the oath of office prescribed by the act approved July 2, 1862. Besides these officers a considerable number, perhaps the larger proportion of those holding subordinate positions in the revenue department have been also unable to comply with the requirements of the statute. As a consequence they have served without compensation, as their accounts could not be audited by the accounting officers of the Government. Many of these officers have performed very important duties with fidelity, and not a few must be in great distress by reason of their inability. When the appointments were made it was found that it would be difficult to find competent officers in many of the Southern districts who could take the oath referred to; so important did it seem to the President and the Cabinet, for the purpose of equalizing the public burdens, that the revenue system should be established throughout the recently rebellious States with as little delay as practicable, and that the unpleasant duty of collecting taxes from an exhausted and lately rebellious people should be performed by her own citizens, that the Secretary of the Treasury did not hesitate to recommend for appointment and to appoint men of whose present loyalty there was no question, but who might either willingly or unwillingly, during the progress of the rebellion, have been so connected with the insurgent States or Confederate Government as to be unable to take the oath of office. This was not done from any disposition to disregard the law, but with an honest and sincere purpose of collecting the revenues with as little trouble to the tax-payers as possible. The country was in a peculiar condition; the rebellion had come to a sudden close; all resistance to the authority of the United States had ceased, and some seven millions of people in a state of disorganization were left without any civil government whatever, and without even an adequate military protection against anarchy and violence under these circumstances. As it seemed clearly to be the duty of the Executive to proceed at once to establish the Federal authority and civil government in these States, so it seemed to be necessary to carry into effect the revenue laws of the General Government. As the country was passing from a state of war to a state of peace, and the emergency seemed to be too pressing to admit of delay until the meeting of Congress, it was thought that the test oath might, in view of the great objects to be obtained, in some cases be dispensed with, or rather that persons might be permitted to hold revenue offices who could take it only in a qualified form. No one could have regretted more than the President and the members of the Cabinet the necessity which existed for this course: but there seemed to be no alternative, and it was confidently hoped that under the circumstances of the case it would be approved by Congress. Among those whose names are presented to the President, the Secretary has no reason to suppose that there is one who can justly be charged with being instrumental in investigating the rebellion, although a few may have contributed to its support and continuance. Some with strong attachments for the Union had followed the States in which they lived into the war against the United States, under the baleful influence of the doctrine of State sovereignty. Some had held office under the insurgent authorities as the only means of supporting their families. Others, to escape conscription, or to be in a better condition to resist at the proper time the Confederate rule. Not one is known to have been a disunionist or unfriendly to the Government at the commencement of the war. A very slight change in the oath—a change that would not cover a particle of present disloyalty—would enable the most of them to hold the offices they are

now so acceptably filling. Great loss to the Government and inconvenience to the Department must result from the discontinuance of their services. After stating reasons at large why the oath should be modified, the Secretary says the rebellion grew out of antagonism of opinion between the people of the free and slave—the legitimate result of a difference of institutions. With the abolition of slavery all real difference of opinion and all serious causes of estrangement ought rapidly to disappear. It will be a calamity, the extent of which cannot now be estimated, both to this nation and to the cause of civil liberty throughout the world, if, instead of looking to reconciliation and harmony, the action of the Government shall tend to harden and intensify a sectionalism between the Northern and Southern States. It is difficult to conceive of a more unfortunate course for the United States to pursue than to make tax gatherers at the South of men who are strangers to the people. It needs no reference to history, although it is full of lessons upon this subject, to illustrate the fatal consequences of such a policy.

Appended to this letter of the Secretary of the Treasury are the names of forty-nine persons acting as Assessors and Collectors in the Southern States who have not taken the oath of office without qualification. It is added that there are undoubtedly others whose names have not been received. It appears from a letter of the Commissioner of Customs that the following named persons are the only custom officers who have taken the oath in a modified form:—James M. Mathews, Collector, Rappahannock, Virginia; William S. Craft, Collector, Georgetown, South Carolina; Gordon Forbes, Collector, Yecomo, Virginia; William Y. Leitch, Surveyor, Charleston, South Carolina; F. M. Robertson, Special examiner of Drugs; and Edgar M. Lazarus and J. F. Walker, Appraisers, Charleston, South Carolina.

The Postmaster-General, in his communication, says, as a means of restoring the business interests in the Southern States, and of aiding in the re-establishment of their constitutional relations with the Government, it was deemed important by the President and Cabinet that the mails should be introduced and postoffices be re-opened in those States as rapidly as possible; to which end the energies of the Department were promptly and have been continuously directed. Various causes have doubtless contributed to the failure in accomplishing all that was hoped for; but that resulting from the oath prescribed by the Act of July 2, 1862, and March 3, 1863, has not been the least, while it has been the one to which his attention has been most frequently called. This, as he is inclined to believe was not owing exclusively to their not being loyal persons who could take the oath, but to the limited compensation, most of the offices offering insufficient inducements to persons to act as postmasters, and to the unwillingness of many who might otherwise act, to do so on account of the inconvenience and compromise of their positions, which they fear would result from taking the oath, when the majority of their neighbors consist of those who had in some form aided the rebellion. To obviate these difficulties in part, recourse has been had to the appointment of women as postmistresses, which has proved to be of doubtful utility to the service. And necessity has also compelled the appointment of very many ignorant persons, incompetent to discharge the duties of their offices. As a remedy for the future, the Postmaster-General suggests a modification of the oath by inserting the word "voluntarily" immediately preceding the word "sought" so that the clause would read, "That I have neither voluntarily sought nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise, the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States." This would enlarge the class of persons who could qualify as postmasters and mail contractors, and be in harmony, it seems to him, with the general provisions and purposes of the oath, and thus facilitate the speedy re-establishment of the postal service to the common benefit of all the sections of the country; for it must be borne in mind that while the people of the Southern States are more directly interested in the restoration, other States are also largely interested. It may be, he says, interesting to know that of the 2258 mail routes in operation in the disloyal States at the breaking out of the rebellion, the service of 757 only has been restored, and that of 8902 postoffices in those States only 2042 appointments of postmasters have been made, of whom 1177 only have qualified for office, 747 of them being males and 420 females. Of the 865 who have not qualified, it is believed that quite all of them have not done so because of the oath.

The Postmaster-General adds, in justice to the department, in view of the inefficient service as shown by the foregoing facts, that no propositions for transportation of the mails for a fair consideration have been declined, while postmasters have been uniformly and promptly appointed upon reliable recommendations. The Postmaster-General concludes by saying he need not enlarge upon evils resulting from so partial a restoration of the postal service in the Southern States, nor upon the benefits to the Government and to the people of all section of the country that would result from a more general and efficient restoration of that service.

These papers were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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W. T. WALTER, of the firm of DENBEC & WALTER, (factorage and commission merchants,) is the only authorized agent for the Camden weekly JOURNAL for Columbia, S. C.

Col. THOS. P. SLIDER, is the only authorized agent of the Camden JOURNAL for the city of Charleston. He may be found at the Mills house in that city.

**Personal.**  
If Miss ANN COLESON will call at the Post Office she will hear of something to her interest.

**Dr. S. Baruch.**  
We are pleased to give notice that the above named gentleman has returned to Camden, and again resumed the practice of his profession. See card in another column.

**Military Statistics in Mexico.**

The following is a translation of an extract taken from *La Sombia* a newspaper published in the City of Mexico: "According to the official dispatches which have been published during the last seven months, from June to December, 1864, dating from the arrival of Maximilian, there took place 122 engagements between the French and Mexicans, of more or less importance, in which there were 1,300 wounded and 3,277 killed. In the year 1865 the number of engagements was 322, in which 1,279 were wounded and 5,674 killed; total, 8,951 killed and 2,579 wounded. Thus in the first seven months there was on an average of 17 engagements per month; while in the remaining twelve months there has been nearly one a day, with the difference that the number of killed has fallen from an average of eight to five. At the beginning of last year the engagements were from 15 to 17 per month, while in December they had already reached 34.

**Judicial Legislation.**

It is stated in a dispatch from Washington, which will be found under its appropriate head, that Judge Underwood, of Alexandria, Va., has judicially decided that inasmuch as the State of Texas was not mentioned in the late peace proclamation of the President, that document "practically declares that the rebellion continues to exist." But for the Judge's antecedents, we should be inclined to suspect the dispatch to be a hoax; and even as it is, we think there must be some mistake as to the point judicially decided. No sane man will venture to assert that the rebellion continues to exist, in fact, any where; and none but a fanatic will deny that its existence, in law, was terminated by the proclamation, as to the States named therein. And to hold that, because it may still technically exist in Texas, it therefore exists in all the other Southern States is an absurdity so outrageous that it would be a waste of time to argue the point.

**The Hon. Alex. H. Stephens**

Was examined a few days since before the Reconstruction Committee at great length. The committee manifested a desire to obtain all the information from Mr. STEPHENS, as it seemed to be their impression that he was by far the best informed witness who has yet appeared before them. It is impossible to say what impression the evidence of Mr. STEPHENS may have upon the ultimate action of the committee, but if they were not determined not to admit the Southern States under any circumstances, it is difficult to see how they could refuse to do so now after the evidence laid before them by Mr. STEPHENS. Mr. STEPHENS has laid before them the facts which prove that the people of Georgia are as loyal as the people of Massachusetts or New York, and that they are doing ten times as much for the negroes as the people of those States, and that they ardently desire a restoration of the Union, yet the committee have determined, and Congress will sustain them in this determination, that none of the Southern States, not even Georgia, shall be represented in the present Congress.

The friends of Admiral RAPHAEL SEMMES have placed him in nomination for Judge of the probate Court for Mobile County. He will, of course, be elected.

Secretary Seward has officially notified J. W. Forney (D. D.) to discontinue the *Chronicle* furnished to the State Department for "Legations." This notice makes the "Dead Duck" waddle through a two column leader in the *Chronicle* of a recent date.

**Mrs. Jefferson Davis.**  
This lady left the city of New York a few days since, en route for Canada, where her two elder children, mother and sisters are temporarily residing. She has not been to Washington, as has been incorrectly telegraphed from that city; nor has she been able to obtain permission to see Mr. DAVIS. It becomes us to add that, during her entire trip from Georgia hither, she sedulously avoided all public demonstrations of that earnest sympathy and profound respect with which our people regard the wife of him who, during the whole period of the heroic struggle and eventful history, presided over their short-lived Republic, and who now languishes, on our account, within the prison walls of a fortress.—This fact is mentioned because the telegraph and letter-writers have made a different impression upon the public mind. She is accompanied by her youngest child.

**The President's Proclamation**

Seems to puzzle the country. Does it mean anything, or nothing? Does it restore the writ of *habeas corpus* to the Southern States? Does it re-establish the supremacy of the civil law in those States? Does it do any more than inconsequently declare that the insurrection has been suppressed?

A Northern exchange upon this point says:

"Our Southern brethren would do well to disabuse themselves of the impression that the proclamation of the 2d makes any material change in their status. It is true they have got along wonderfully fast under the President's policy of reconstruction. They are still, however, in their leading strings, and a present realization of this fact will relieve them from a future disappointment."

We cannot help thinking that the outgivings of that journal indicate that the Radicals have resolved not to permit the President to carry out his plans of reconstruction; and the following sentence gives us cause to fear that, to effect their purpose, they have come to an understanding with General Grant:

The communication from General Grant, which the President recently gave to Congress in support of his measures, urged that troops should be retained for some time through the South. Now, it is not probable that Mr. Johnson, even though he should ignore the Freedmen's Bureau altogether would disregard the counsel and advice of the *Lieut. General*, and that, too, when all loyal hearts place implicit confidence in the latter's judgment and good common sense.

**MY DOVE IN HER NEST.**

"Nay, your wine will make me heady,  
We have ta'en enough already.  
Let us go while we are steady;  
Do not stir, I know my way."  
So I lit my chamber candle,  
Sought my room and turned the handle—  
Lady tugs, from ruff to wandal,  
Loose across the lounge lay.

"Heavens! I cried, alarmed and shaken,  
"Surely I have been mistaken!  
If the sleeping beauty waken,  
What excuse for me remains?"  
Fear the dangerous joy enclaves,  
Love with eager step advances—  
Oh, the dreams, languors, trances!  
Throbbing in my dove's young veins!

Dislaid watch above her keeping,  
Angels guard their sister sleeping—  
Would they wake her should a peeping,  
Bearded mortal ope the door?  
Cautiously a pace advancing  
Round the rose silk draperies glancing—  
Oh, the sight divine, entrancing,  
Haunts my dreams for evermore!

Flushed as May's young wealth of roses,  
Lays on the couch repose,  
And the billowy snow discloses  
Outlines worth a sculptor's note;  
Tresses loose—a golden wonder!  
Crimson lips that smile asunder,  
And one small hand creeping under  
The crisp lace which fringed her throat.

Now a kiss were easy stealing,  
But I dared not trust the feeling,  
For my very soul seemed reeling  
In the fulness of her view;  
So I bowed my head and blessed her,  
Prayed the angel-host to rest her,  
Softly said, "Sweet dreams, fair sister!"  
And from that small heaven withdrew.

MILES O'REILLY.

**General Grant Arrested for Fast Driving.**

On Saturday, while General Grant was exercising his fast gray nag on Fourteenth-street, officers Bailey and Crown, after a sharp race, arrested him for fast driving. General Grant offered to pay the usual fine imposed in such cases, which, of course, they could not receive; but the General expressed his doubts of their authority to arrest him, and drove off. The case was duly reported to Superintendent Richards. It is stated that this street is becoming a common racing ground, and that a large number of arrests for violations of the ordinance prohibiting fast driving are made every pleasant day, when those who delight in "speed" are out exercising their "stock."  
*National Intelligencer, 9th.*

**From Washington.**

Hon. Alexander H. Stephens had an interview with the President to-day, and one with the Secretary of State. Both interviews were of the most cordial and pleasant nature. The President expressed great satisfaction at the presence of Mr. Stephens in Washington, and said that he anticipated much good to result from influence of Mr. Stephens with the Southern people. Mr. Stephens has been called upon to-day by many Senators and Representatives. He had made a most favorable impression upon all, and his cheering account of the condition of public feeling in Georgia had had a most happy effect.

There is every reason to believe that the peace proclamation of the President will be immediately followed by other action on his part. It will be observed that the legal effect of the proclamation is to place the Southern States in the same attitude precisely toward the General Government that they occupied before the war, and entitled to the same rights that they heretofore enjoyed. Mr. Johnson is determined to follow out this principle to its legitimate conclusion, and to see to it that the Southern States are no longer deprived of these rights by a factious majority in Congress.

The civil rights bill was taken up in the Senate to-day, and the consideration of the veto commenced. Mr. Trumbull's speech, in favor of the bill, of two hours' duration, was able and ingenious, but it was evident that he labored under the knowledge that the bill is doomed to defeat. Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, is to speak to-morrow in defence of the veto, and as there will be at least two more speeches on the subject, a vote can hardly be reached before Friday, and may not be reached this week. The veto will certainly be sustained by 18 votes.

The intelligence from New Jersey continues to be propitious. Mr. Scovel will maintain his position, and there is no truth in the rumors of the defection of two Democratic members. There is even some possibility that Mr. Stockton himself may eventually be returned.

It is reported that Mrs. Jefferson Davis and General Dick Taylor have both received permission to visit Jefferson Davis, and that he will soon be released on *habeas corpus*, as under the President's proclamation he can no longer be held as a prisoner under mere military authority, and under the decision of the Supreme Court yesterday, he cannot be tried by a military tribunal.

The Brooks and Dodge contested election occupied the attention of the House to-day. The minority report and the speech of Mr. Marshall in favor of Mr. Brooks have produced a very good effect. The House was also electrified by a powerful and earnest speech by Mr. Farnsworth, of Illinois, a prominent Republican member, in favor of Mr. Brooks. It is conceded on all hands, now, that Mr. Dodge cannot get the seat of Mr. Brooks, and, indeed, it is not improbable after all, that Mr. Brooks may be entitled to it. His case certainly looks favorable. The case will scarcely be concluded before the end of the week. Mr. Stewart's resolution will probably be taken up by the Senate as soon as the civil rights bill is disposed of.—*Cor. New York News.*

**When Slavery was Abolished in Georgia.**

A case recently came up before the Chattahoochee (Georgia) Superior Court which is interesting, on account of the peculiar nature of the Judge's charge. The suit was that of Bussey vs. Wilson, to recover the value of a negro girl hired by Bussey to Wilson for 1862. It was alleged that the girl was burned through the negligence of Wilson, from the effects of which she died. Defendant claims that he had paid the hire of the girl up to January 1, 1863, at which time the President's proclamation liberating slaves went into effect, and plaintiff had no right of property in the girl. The Court charged the jury, first, that if the accident occurred prior to January 1, 1863, when it was admitted by parties that the plaintiff could claim the right of property in slaves, he had the right to maintain his action, and that damages would depend upon the negligence and carelessness of the defendant; second, that the proclamation of the President did not emancipate the slaves in this State, but that the abolition of slavery was only legally declared by the Convention held in this State in November last.

**Some of the Results.**

The Petersburg *Index* says the refusal of a justice to marry a black man and white woman, the refusal of a hotel keeper to lodge or keep a negro, subjects, by the Civil Rights Bill, the "offending" party to a fine of \$1000, or imprisonment, or both.

The discrimination by any State between whites and blacks in any of its laws, remits the aggrieved black to the courts to the United States for trial, so that under the Civil Rights Bill, the Federal Courts will have cognizance of murders, rapes, arson, robberies, and many other crimes heretofore cognizable exclusively in state courts.

The Chinese, when brought into court as witnesses in California, are sworn in the manner peculiar to their own country. An oath, written in Chinese characters, upon tissue paper, is subscribed with their names and burned to ashes. The purport of the oath is, that if the witness does not tell the truth he hopes that his soul may be burned and destroyed as is the paper which he holds in his hands.

**Attempted Negro Revolution at Panama-Chilian Steamer Captured.**

NEW YORK, April 9.—The steamship *New York*, from Aspinwall last instant, brings seven hundred and thirty thousand dollars in treasure.

One hundred and fifty negroes attempted a revolution at Panama on the 24th ultimo. They were surrounded by troops and shot down like sheep. Twenty-five or thirty were killed, and one hundred made prisoners.

No news of interest from Central America.

A small Chilean steamer, the *Paquet de Maul*, with two hundred and fifty troops, had been seized by the Spanish.

Peru, Bolivia and Chili were still preparing to repel the common enemy.

As an instance of the spread of divorce in the West, we are told that there are at present living in Columbus, Wisconsin, two women and a man who has been married to the women aforesaid. The man has been married four times, has now two wives living, and has no wife. The first woman has been married three times, has two husbands living, and has no husband. The second woman has been married twice, has two husbands living, and has no husband.

Some of the newspapers persist in calling Mr. Stockton, recently ejected from the Senate, "Commodore." He is a son of Commodore Stockton, who was a Senator. His grandfather was also a Senator, and his great grandfather was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

F. F. Gerald, a teacher in the Freedmen's Bureau, at Mobile, arrested some time ago for stealing a horse from the livery stable of Mr. Rufus Dane, was tried at the recent term of the city court, found guilty and sentenced to five years imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary.

**Announcements**

**FOR TAX COLLECTOR.**  
MR. EDITOR: Please announce J. S. GARDNER a candidate for Tax Collector for Kershaw District at the ensuing election, and oblige  
MANY FRIENDS.  
February 23.  
tde.

MR. EDITOR: Please announce Mr. JOSEPH E. NETTLE a candidate for Tax Collector at the ensuing election, and oblige  
MANY FRIENDS.  
February 16.  
tde.

MR. EDITOR: Please announce Mr. HENRY PATE a candidate for Tax Collector at the ensuing election. And oblige  
MANY FRIENDS.

MR. EDITOR: The friends of Capt. J. J. DRAKEFORD announce him as a candidate for Tax Collector for Kershaw District, at the ensuing election.  
MANY VOTERS.  
January 12.  
tde.

MR. EDITOR: The friends of Capt. RICHLI M. CANTEY announce him as a candidate for Tax Collector for Kershaw District at the ensuing election.  
MANY FRIENDS.  
January 12.  
tde.

MR. EDITOR: You will please announce Mr. JAMES R. ABRANTS a candidate for Tax Collector for Kershaw District, at the ensuing election. And oblige  
MANY FRIENDS.  
February 2.  
tde.\*

**Contractor & Builder**

THE SUBSCRIBER HEREBY gives notice that he is prepared to do any work in the line of

**Carpenter's Work.**

Building or Repairing done in a workman-like manner, at short notice.  
He hopes to merit a share of public patronage. All work warranted to give satisfaction.  
D. R. KENNEDY.  
April 20—tf

**Sugars.**

CRUSHED, CLARIFIED AND BROWN Sugars, low for cash at  
April 20—  
T. S. MYERS.

**Coffee.**

JAVA AND RIO COFFEE—A SUPERIOR article—at  
April 20—  
T. S. MYERS.

**Teas.**

GREEN AND BLACK TEAS—THE best article imported—at  
April 20—  
T. S. MYERS.

**Pickles, Sardines,**

LEMON SYRUP, RAISINS, Prunes, Candies, Pepper Sauce, Tomato Ketchup, Spices of all kinds, Soap, Starch, Candles, &c.  
Also, a fine article of Macaroni, all of which are sold low for cash at the store of  
T. S. MYERS, Bro. & Co.  
April 20—

**DR. S. BARUCH**

HAS RESUMED HIS PRACTICE in this town.  
Office two doors below Baum, Bro. & Co.  
April 30.

COOKING WINE and EXTRACTS for sale by  
HODGSON & DUNLAP.